



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Monday, February 10, 2003

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BAUCUS ANNOUNCES FINANCE COMMITTEE STAFF CHANGES

*Tim Punke Named as Chief International Trade Counsel;
Laura Hayes as Communications Director*

U. S. Senator Max Baucus today announced that Tim Punke, former Senior International Trade Counsel with the Senate Finance Committee has been promoted to the position of Chief International Trade Counsel. Laura Hayes, former Press Secretary for Senator Baucus, has been named Communications Director for the Democratic Staff of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Tim Punke is replacing Greg Mastel, who served as Chief International Trade Counsel and Chief Economist on the Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee throughout the 107th Congress. Mastel is leaving the committee in March to join Miller and Chevalier Chartered as a Principal of the firm. He will work in Miller Chevalier's international trade practice. Mastel previously worked in the Senate in the late 1980s and early 1990s in a number of posts, including Chief of Staff to Senator Max Baucus.

Prior to working for the Committee, Tim Punke served as Wyoming State Director for the Gore-Lieberman campaign, and as International Economic Policy Advisor at the White House National Economic Council. Punke also worked as an attorney at Dewey Ballantine, LLP and clerked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Billings, Montana.

Laura Hayes has served as Press Secretary for Senator Baucus in Washington, D.C. for the past two years. Prior to this, she was Director of Operations for the Schweitzer for Senate campaign in Montana and worked in the U.S. House of Representatives for former Representative Bill Luther.

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